

## OPINION 1739

***Strombiformis albus* Da Costa, 1778 (currently *Melanella (Balcis) alba*; Mollusca, Gastropoda): specific name conserved**

### Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the following specific names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:

(a) *laevis* Pennant, 1777, as published in the binomen *Turbo laevis*;

(b) *albus* Pennant, 1777, as published in the binomen *Turbo albus*.

(2) The name *Balcis* Leach in Gray, 1847 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Balcis montagui* Leach in Gray, 1847 (a junior subjective synonym of *Strombiformis albus* Da Costa, 1778), is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *albus* Da Costa, 1778, as published in the binomen *Strombiformis albus* and as defined by the neotype designated by Warén (1989) (senior subjective synonym of the specific name of *Balcis montagui* Leach in Gray, 1847, the type species of *Balcis* Leach in Gray, 1847), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *laevis* Pennant, 1777, as published in the binomen *Turbo laevis* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;

(b) *albus* Pennant, 1777, as published in the binomen *Turbo albus* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

### History of Case 2526

An application involving the conservation of the specific name of *Strombiformis albus* Da Costa, 1778 was received from Dr Anders Warén (*Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, Sweden*) on 19 June 1985. After correspondence the present case was published in BZN 49: 112–115 (June 1992). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment in support from Dr Riccardo Giannuzzi-Savelli (*Palermo Pallavicino, Italy*) was published in BZN 49: 289–290 (December 1992).

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1993 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 49: 114. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1993 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 24: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Heppell, Hahn, Halvorsen, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Willink

Negative votes — 2: Holthuis and Štys.

No votes were received from Starobogatov and Uéno.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Holthuis commented: 'I do not agree that the type species of *Balcis* Leach in Gray, 1847 is *Balcis montagui* = *Helix polita* sensu Montagu (1803). The genus was established merely by the sentence '*Balcis Montagui. Helix polita* Mont.' (para. 7 of the application). There is no indication that Leach meant anything else but the nominal species cited by Montagu, i.e. *Turbo politus* Linnaeus, 1758, and therefore *T. politus* Linnaeus is the type species of *Balcis*'. (Editorial note. As noted in paras. 4 and 6 of the application, a number of early authors misidentified *T. politus* Linnaeus. The species described under the name *H. polita* by Montagu (1803) in his *Testacea Britannica* was considerably larger than Linnaeus's Mediterranean taxon. Leach, in an [1820] work published posthumously by Gray (1852; reference below), synonymised '*Helix polita* Pulteney' (1799, 1813), '*polita* Montagu' (1803, 1808) and '*polita* Maton & Rackett' (1807; reference below) with *Turbo laevis* Pennant and *Strombiformis albus* Da Costa. All these nominal species were described in works on the British fauna. *Turbo politus* Linnaeus, as long understood, is a Mediterranean species which does not occur in the British Isles; the neotype (designated by Warén, 1988; para. 7 of the application) is from Tunisia. The conservation of this neotype following recent discoveries of Linnaean specimens has been proposed in BZN 50: 107–111).

Leach, W.E. 1852. In Gray, J.E. (Ed.), *A synopsis of the Mollusca of Great Britain*. 376 pp., pls. 2–13. Van Voorst, London.

Maton, W.G. & Rackett, T. 1807. A descriptive catalogue of the British Testacea. *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London*, 8: 17–250.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*albus*, *Strombiformis*, Da Costa, 1778, *Historia Naturalis testaceorum Britanniae or, the British conchology* ..., p. 116.

*albus*, *Turbo*, Pennant, 1777, *British zoology*, Ed. 4, vol. 4, p. 130. (Octavo edition).

*Balcis* Leach in Gray, 1847, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 20(133): 271.

*laevis*, *Turbo*, Pennant, 1777, *British zoology*, Ed. 4, vol. 4, p. 130. (Octavo edition).

The following is the reference for the designation of the neotype of *Strombiformis albus* Da Costa, 1778:

Warén, A. 1989. *Journal of Conchology*, 33(4): 222.